

Senate Resolution

No. 36

Introduced by Senator Walters

March 17, 2014

Senate Resolution No. 36—Relative to prescription drug abuse awareness.

- 1 WHEREAS, More deaths were caused by drug overdoses in
2 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years of age;
3 and
4 WHEREAS, In 2010, drug overdoses in the United States
5 resulted in 38,329 deaths, of which 22,134 were from prescription
6 drugs; and
7 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans who
8 are 12 years of age or older indicated in response to a survey that
9 they had used an illicit drug or abused a prescription drug in the
10 previous month; and
11 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
12 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals, which is an
13 increase of 98.4 percent from 2004; and
14 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs
15 health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health-care
16 costs; and
17 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers
18 now exceed deaths caused by heroin and cocaine combined; and
19 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse
20 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a
21 doctor; and
22 WHEREAS, The 2013 National Drug Control Strategy listed
23 four interventions to reduce prescription drug abuse, one of which

1 is to provide safe drug disposal by increasing the number of
2 take-back programs ~~to provide a well-publicized statewide~~
3 ~~medication take-back system that is much more convenient to~~
4 ~~consumers than the current one-day events to consumers or for~~
5 disposal at hazardous waste facilities; and

6 WHEREAS, During the last seven of the National Prescription
7 Drug Take-Back Days operated by the federal Drug Enforcement
8 Administration (DEA), a total of 3.4 million pounds of medication
9 were removed from circulation and potential diversion by the DEA
10 and its state, local, and tribal law enforcement and community
11 partners; and

12 WHEREAS, The Legislature supports April 26, 2014, as
13 National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day as declared by the
14 DEA, which encourages residents to locate their local collection
15 site and safely dispose of their accumulated unwanted and unused
16 prescription drugs; and

17 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug
18 Abuse (NCAPDA) was established to help reduce the number of
19 deaths and addictions caused by prescription drug abuse, through
20 implementing a nationwide awareness campaign, initiating and
21 supporting pertinent legislative actions, and through partnerships
22 with educational, medical, law enforcement, and other appropriate
23 entities; and

24 WHEREAS, NCAPDA links existing community based entities
25 throughout the United States under NCAPDA to share best
26 practices, develop and share useful material resources, and establish
27 and implement a cohesive, nationwide awareness campaign
28 regarding the dangers of prescription drug abuse; and

29 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based
30 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and
31 local governments, health care practitioners, pharmacists, and the
32 general public will demonstrate their commitment to the prevention
33 of prescription medication abuse by participating in activities
34 intended to highlight local efforts during the month of March; now,
35 therefore, be it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
37 declares March 2014, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness
38 Month, and encourages all citizens to participate in prevention
39 programs and activities, and to safely store and dispose of their
40 medications; and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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